

County Councilman David Marks Fifth District Newsletter

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Proudly Serving Carney, Kingsville, Loch Raven, Parkville, Perry Hall, and Towson

MESSAGE FROM COUNCILMAN MARKS:

WORK ADVANCES ON DUMBARTON MIDDLE SCHOOL RENOVATION

I am working hard to improve schools throughout the Fifth District, from the Harford County line west to Charles Street. In the Towson area, much of our focus has been to alleviate overcrowding, which is among the most severe in Baltimore County. The day after my Inauguration, I spoke before the Board of Education about the need to solve this issue.

Working with the County Executive and our state legislators, we have been able to complete additions at Hampton and Stoneleigh Elementary Schools. Funding is now recommended for an addition at Cromwell Regional Magnet School of Technology. We have not forgotten, however, the need to modernize Dumbarton Middle School, which serves nearly all of Greater Towson.

During the Fiscal Year 2014 budget process, I advocated very hard for a \$27.5 million renovation of Dumbarton Middle School. This project will include upgrades to the entrance, classroom renovations, and improvements to make the school compliant with the 1990 Americans With Disabilities Act.



This project will also equip Dumbarton Middle School with air conditioning. Every public school that serves the immediate Towson area will have air conditioning, and with the recent approval of funding for Parkville Middle School, every middle school that serves the Fifth District will be air conditioned.

It is expected that the school will be completely renovated by the 2017 school year. You can view the early design plan here: http://www.bcps.org/construction/dumbartonMS/DumbartonMS_SchematicDesignPresentation.pdf

IMPROVING PUBLIC SAFETY IS A TOP PRIORITY IN DOWNTOWN TOWSON



Councilman Marks is working with Baltimore County and Towson University police to make sure Downtown Towson remains a secure place to work, live, and do business. Councilman Marks created a task force to look at additional security improvements at Burke Avenue and York Road, site of recent violent crimes. Three new police officers have been budgeted for the downtown area and Councilman Marks is working to expand the Citizens on Patrol program throughout the downtown core and into adjacent neighborhoods.

NEWS IN CARNEY

Carney Veterans Memorial Renovated

When Eagle Scout candidate Sam Magee needed a service project, Councilman Marks suggested renovating the Carney Veterans Memorial. On November 10, the Carney Improvement Association marked its first Veterans Day Ceremony at the restored monument. Many thanks to Sam Magee and Boy Scout Troop 124!



NEWS IN PERRY HALL

Improvements Planned for Perry Hall Fields

Improvements are coming to several Perry Hall fields. The county started the skinning process for Field 1 at Honeygo Run Regional Park in early November. The turf and dirt from Field 1 will be used to repair the pitcher's mound and infield grass at Field 2. The main natural turf field which serves as the outfield for both diamonds is a priority for work in the immediate future, as is the diamond at Perry Hall Elementary School, which should be skinned by the spring of 2014. Much of the work depends on the weather.

Perry Hall High School PTSA Craft Fair on December 7

The Perry Hall High School PTSA will hold its Arts and Crafts Fair on Saturday, December 7 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The fair will have food trucks, face painting, balloon twisting, and over 45 craft vendors, just in time for holiday shopping.

New Christmas Tree, Decorations To Line Perry Hall

Councilman Marks worked with Russell Berk, owner of the Chapel Hills Farm and Nursery, to have a new Christmas Tree installed at Perry Hall Elementary School. Mr. Berk donated a 12 foot Norway spruce that he picked up from a tree farm in Frederick County. Downtown Perry Hall will

also light up thanks to decorations donated by the Perry Hall Improvement Association and the Perry Hall/White Marsh Business Association.

Stream Valley to be Improved Near Perry Hall High School

Baltimore County will begin work after Thanksgiving to stabilize an eroding stream valley behind the homes at 8928-8934 Kilkenny Circle and 4803-4809 Torpoint Road. Construction materials such as large rock will be used to direct water flow, and native vegetation and seeding will stabilize the stream bank. Construction will occur on weekdays between 7:30 p.m. and 5 p.m., and should be finished by April 2014.

NEWS IN TOWSON

Parking Study Required for 101 York Project

Councilman Marks is requiring the developer of the 101 York project to complete a parking study that will be shared with stakeholders and within Baltimore County government. While the study is underway, he will continue to bring together the developer and key stakeholders to see if issues can be addressed that were raised at the Community Input Meeting. Councilman Marks has met with the leadership of Towson's American Legion Post 22 four times since the Community Input Meeting on October 30th.

Pedestrian Improvements Approved for Rodgers Forge

Councilman Marks worked with County Executive Kamenetz's office to secure funding for improvements in Rodgers Forge. Improvements will be made to the intersection of Stevenson Lane and Stanmore Road to slow traffic and improve pedestrian connections to the Rodgers Forge Elementary School campus. The county will build a 40-foot pedestrian island along Stevenson Lane, a pedestrian ramp, and a sidewalk along the southern section of the road bordering Rodgers Forge Elementary School. The project will cost \$10,000 and should be finished by the end of the year.

SPECIAL NOTICE FOR VETERANS

Many residents may not know that Disabled American Veterans or their surviving spouse whose principal residence is in Baltimore County may qualify for a property tax exemption and refund of up to three years of property taxes paid to Baltimore County. Over the past three years, Councilman Marks has sponsored and voted in favor of many resolutions authorizing such refunds to qualified individuals in the Fifth District, and throughout Baltimore County. For an application from the Maryland State Department of Assessments and Taxation, visit <http://www.dat.state.md.us/sdatweb/veteran.pdf>.